

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action of November 2, 2004, claims 1 and 22 have been amended in a manner which is believed to make these and the dependent claims thereto allowable. More particularly, with respect to claim 22, this claim was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and in particular due to the use of the word preferably. Claim 22 has now been amended in a manner which deletes the usage of the word preferably and is therefore believed to be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

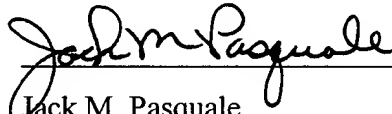
Referring now to the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections, it is set forth at page 2 of the Official Action that claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 16, 17 and 24 are anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of WO 99/17330, Cooper. Specifically, the Examiner with regard to claim 1 references Figures 1 and 5 of Cooper and accompanying page 2, lines 1-8, page 3, lines 5-20 and page 5, lines 14 and 15. In the Examiner's presentation, he proposes that Cooper shows a back plate in view of the back substrate layer 14 as shown in Figure 1 of Cooper. Cooper states at page 13, lines 30-31 that individual layer pieces 1₁, 1₂, 1₃, 1₄ of the alumina substrate 1 are formed by tape casting. However, what the Examiner equates as the back plate is just one of the individual layer pieces used to form the overall alumina substrate 1 which would be equivalent to the cathode plate of the claimed invention as set forth in amended claim 1. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Cooper of a back plate separated from the cathode plate by spacers such that the overall arrangement results in the cathode plate being carried on the front side of the back plate. In view of this amendment to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Cooper neither anticipates nor suggests this claim.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the number below if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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